

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20

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R 280943Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7790

UNCLAS MANILA 10896

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: 555 ADDITIONAL PERSONS ORDERED RELEASED; MARCOS

- SAYS LESS THAN 300 "HARDCORE" DETAINEES REMAIN

REF: MANILA 10818

1. SUMMARY: MARCOS TOLD PRESS JUNE 27 LESS THAN 300 PERSONS ARE NOW LEFT IN MILITARY DETENTION, AND THESE ARE "HARDCORE LEFTISTS." GOP ORDERED 555 MORE PEOPLE RELEASED JUNE 27, INCLUDING 77 CURRENTLY IN DETENTION. AMNESTY COMMISSION SAID BOTH CONVICTED AND ACCUSED MAY FILE FOR AMNESTY, INCLUDING AQUINO. END SUMMARY.

2. MANILA DAILIES JUNE 28 QUOTE PRIME MINISTER MARCOS AS SAYING LESS THAN 300 PERSONS ARE STILL IN MILITARY DETENTION. MARCOS SOUGHT TO COUNTER IMPRESSION THAT THOSE REMAINING WERE MOSTLY ORDINARY DEMONSTRATORS OR OPPOSITION LEADERS, INSISTING THEY WERE "HARDCORE LEFTISTS" CHARGED WITH CRIMES AGAINST SECURITY AND PUBLIC ORDER. HE ADDED THAT MOST OF THEM ARE (ALSO?) ACCUSED OF COMMON CRIMES SUCH AS ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARMS, FRUSTRATED OR ATTEMPTED HOMICIDE, MURDER AND ARSON, PUNISHABLE UNDER THE REVISED PENAL CODE.

3. "TIMES JOURNAL" REPORTS THAT 555 MORE DETAINEES WERE UNCLASSIFIED

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ORDERED RELEASED JUNE 27 FROM VARIOUS DETENTION CENTERS, BRINGING TO 2,637 THE NUMBER ORDERED RELEASED SINCE APRIL 7. OF THE 555, 478 ARE CURRENTLY FREE ON TEMPORARY RELEASE AND HAVE NOW BEEN PERMANENTLY RELEASED; THEIR CASES WERE DISMISSED FOR INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE. THE REMAINING 77 WERE GRANTED TEMPORARY RELEASE; REPORT SAYS THEY ARE ACCUSED OF CRIMES AGAINST NATIONAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC ORDER, AND

MOST ARE SUSPECTED MEMBERS OF THE NPA OR MNLF.

4. "TIMES JOURNAL" NOTES THAT MILITARY COMMISSION NO. 6 FORMALLY RELEASED CESAR BAVIERA DURING A RECENT TRIAL SESSION; BAVIERA WAS AMONG THE 631 GRANTED AMNESTY JUNE 10. HE WAS ON TRIAL FOR SUBVERSION WITH LUZVIMINDO DAVID, FORMER KABATAANG MAKABAYAN (NATIONALIST YOUTH) HEAD, AND 16 OTHERS. STORY NOTES THAT THREE OTHER CO-ACCUSED (ROMEO BANAGA, ARTURO PANGILINAN, ORLANDO MERCADO) WERE RELEASED EARLIER; THEIR NAMES WERE NOT INCLUDED IN LIST OF 631; MERCADO WAS REPORTED JUNE 21 (MANILA 10544) AS RECOMMENDED FOR AMNESTY UNDER P.D. 1429 AND AWAITING PRESIDENTIAL APPROVAL.

5. AMNESTY COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING P.D. 1429 ANNOUNCED JUNE 27 THAT ITS MANDATE INCLUDES PERSONS ALREADY CONVICTED OF EITHER SECURITY OR COMMON CRIMES AS WELL AS PERSONS CURRENTLY FACING TRIAL. IT ADDED THAT NO PERSON IS BARRED FROM APPLYING FOR AMNESTY, "INCLUDING FORMER SENATOR BENIGNO S. AQUINO" (SEE MANILA 10544). THE COMMISSION SAID IT IS CONSIDERING THE ORIGINAL 730 APPLICATIONS AT A RATE OF ABOUT 100 PER DAY AND IS RECEIVING 30 TO 40 NEW APPLICATIONS DAILY. 306 APPLICANTS WERE RECOMMENDED TO MARCOS FOR AMNESTY JUNE 25. DEADLINE FOR FILING UNDER P.D. 1429 IS SEPTEMBER 30. MURPHY

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